NOTE VIII.

POECILODRYAS CINEREA.

On a new species of *Poecilodryas*.

By R. Bowdler Sharpe, F. L. S. etc.

The genus *Poecilodryas* was founded by Gould in 1865 (Handbook to the Birds of Australia, vol. I, p. 287), for the reception of the *Petroeca cerviniventris*, which he had described in 1857 from North-Western Australia. He also placed in the new genus, *P. superciliosa* (Gould, P. Z. S. 1846, p. 106), and that these two birds are rightly separated from the genus *Petroeca*, no one who has compared the two forms will reasonably doubt. This is not the case with Mr. Gould's genus *Amaurodryas*, which, in my opinion, cannot be separated from *Petroeca*.

When the first collection of Signor D'albertis came from the Arfak Mountains and was described by Dr. Sclater in 1873, the latter gentleman brought forward a new genus *Leucophantes*, with a new species, *L. brachyurus;* but on comparing this species, of which there are examples in the Leyden Museum, with *Poecilodryas* as represented by the Australian species, it will be seen that they are generically inseparable, and that *Leucophantes* is synonymous with *Poecilodryas*. Lastly I consider that the fine species, *Megalestes albinotatus*, described in 1875 by Count Salvadori (Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. VII, p. 769) is a true *Poecilodryas* also, and I believe that the following will be a correct list of the members of this genus, as at present known.

1. Poecilodryas cerviniventris (Gould).
2. » superciliosa (Gould).
3. » cinerea, sp. n.
4. » brachyura (Sclater).
5. » hypoleuca (Gray).
6. » bimaculata (Salvad.).
7. » albinotata (Salvad.).
8. » leucops (Salvad.).
9. » capito (Gould).
10. » nana (Ramsay).
11. » papuana (Meyer).

The new species which I propose to describe is the above-mentioned

Poecilodryas cinerea.

P. similis *P. brachyura* sed maculâ mentali nigra nullâ et caudâ basali albâ distinguenda.

Adult female. General colour above bluish grey, a little duller on the head: wings browner than the back, the least wing-coverts alone grey like the latter, the secondaries with a small brown spot at the tip: upper tail-coverts black: the two central tail-feathers black, the remainder white for the basal half, black for the remainder: a line across the base of the forehead, lores and feathers round the eye dusky blackish, the ear-coverts also washed with dusky: cheeks and under surface of body white, washed with grey on the sides of the breast and flanks: under wing-coverts blackish, with a white spot near the edge of the wing: quills dusky blackish below, with a considerable amount of white near the base of some of the quills. Total length 5.6 inches, culmen 0.65, wing 3.35, tail 2.4, tarsus 0.8.

Hab. Noisaroe, Arfak Mountains, Jan. 16th 1876. (*coll. Bruijn*).

Typus in Mus. Lugd.

Leyden Museum Nov. 6, 1878. R. B. S.